

-2-

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 9, 24 and 26. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method of automating the billing process for a physician using an electronic handheld processing device, the method comprising:  
coupling the handheld device to a server and transferring to the handheld device patient information specific to the physician and billing codes and associated guidelines and guideline updates specific to the physician;  
while the handheld device is decoupled from the server:  
displaying a patient list of multiple patients specific to the physician, the list including patient locations of the multiple patients in the hospital, and an indication of whether each of the multiple patients has been seen that day, the patient list being sorted by the patient locations in the hospital;  
displaying patient demographic information on a screen of the handheld processing device;  
displaying billing information for individual patients on the screen of the handheld processing device;  
entering patient and billing code information for a patient once the patient has been examined; and  
flagging billing code guideline changes to warn the physician to check new updated guidelines associated with the billing codes; and  
coupling the handheld device to the server and outputting patient and billing code data to the server for distributing the billing code data to information systems for further processing to generate medical bills.

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-3-

10-11. (canceled)

12. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising displaying guideline notifications for different billing codes.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the changes in guidelines associated with the billing codes are flagged by an alarm.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising displaying billing code and diagnosis menus specific to the physician.
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising displaying medical procedures and evaluation menus specific to the physician.

16-17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the patient information is sorted by patient locations in the hospital.
19. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising displaying guideline notifications for different billing codes.
20. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein changes in guidelines associated with the billing codes are flagged.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising displaying billing code and diagnosis menus specific to the physician.
22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising displaying medical procedures and evaluation menus specific to the physician.

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-4-

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising displaying a list of stock phrases specific to the physician for selection by the physician in entering notes.

24. (currently amended) A method of automating the billing process for a physician using an electronic handheld processing device, the method comprising:

coupling the handheld device to a server and transferring patient information specific to the physician and billing codes and associated guidelines specific to the physician to the handheld device;

while the handheld device is decoupled from the server:

displaying a patient list of multiple patients specific to the physician, the list displaying patient locations in the hospital, and displaying an indication of whether each patient has been seen that day, the patient list being sorted by the patient locations in the hospital;

displaying patient demographic information on a screen of the handheld device;

displaying billing information for individual patients on the screen of the handheld processing device;

entering patient and billing code information for a patient once the patient has been examined; and

displaying guidelines associated with the billing codes; and

coupling the handheld device to the server and outputting patient and billing code data to the server for distributing the billing code data to information systems for further processing to generate medical bills.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising displaying a list of stock phrases specific to the physician for selection by the physician in entering notes.

26. (currently amended) An electronic handheld processing device used by a physician comprising:

memory storing a patient list of multiple patients specific to the physician, patient

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-5-

locations associated with the patients, an indication of whether each patient has been seen by the physician that day, and billing code information and associated guidelines specific to the physician;

a user interface that enables the physician to sort the patient list according to locations of the patients in the hospital and to access patient demographic information, the indication of whether a patient has been seen, and billing code information and associated guidelines and to enter patient and billing code information; and

a communication interface to intermittently communicate with an interface device for transferring patient, billing and guideline information specific to the physician between the handheld processing device and a server.

27. (previously presented) The device of claim 26 wherein the user interface enables the physician to display billing code and diagnosis menus specific to the physician.
28. (previously presented) The device of claim 26 wherein the user interface enables the physician to display medical procedures and evaluation menus specific to the physician.
29. (previously presented) The device of claim 26 wherein the user interface enables the physician to display a list of stock phrases specific to the physician for selection by the physician in entering notes.
30. (previously presented) The device of claim 26 wherein the user interface flags billing code changes to warn the physician to check new guidelines associated with the billing codes.

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